

BACKGROUND: Associative references link two terms that are neither broader nor narrower than each other. Even though terms linked in this way are not hierarchically related, they are mentally associated to such an extent that the link is made explicit in order to reveal alternative terms that might be of interest. In order to avoid making subjective judgments, one of the terms should be strongly implied whenever the other is considered.

In LCGFT associative references are indicated by the notation related term (RT). RTs are reciprocal and are explicitly coded in each of the records. Example:

Actualities (Motion pictures)

RT Documentary films
[explicitly coded]

Documentary films

RT Actualities (Motion pictures)
[explicitly coded]

1. General rule. Related term references may be made if the terms have meanings that overlap to some extent, and/or if the terms are used somewhat interchangeably. Example:

Census data

RT Vital statistics

Vital statistics

RT Census data

2. Limitations on making RTs. Do not make RT references if either of the following prohibitions applies.

- The terms begin with the same word or word stem. Examples:

Acrostics (Poetry)

Acrostics (Puzzles)

2. Limitations on making RTs. (Continued)

- The terms have a common broader term at any level of hierarchy except for the topmost term. *Examples:*

Apocalyptic films

Dystopian films

*[The terms have the same BT, **Science fiction films**, so RTs are not made]*

Carols

RT Christmas music

Christmas music

RT Carols

*[The terms are both in the **Music** hierarchy, but may be RTs because they do not share a BT within that hierarchy.]*

3. Scope notes. If two terms that are so closely related that they may be confused, but the above rules do not permit RT references between them, provide scope notes contrasting the terms (see J 195).